

DDRS ADVISORY COUNCIL**4-2-14**

PRESENT: Teresa Grosse, Mark Flegge, Chris St. Paul, Melody Cooper, Kim Opsahl, Nicole Norvell, Leslie Jones, John Dickerson, Cathy Robinson, Anne Davis and Kristina Blankenship

FACILITATOR: Julie Reynolds

RECORDER: Robin M. Stearns, Administrative Secretary II, Provider Relations

ISSUE	DISCUSSION	ACTION
First Steps Update	Discussion was held regarding the recent changes in the northern part of the state due to the transitioning of contracts. Cathy distributed the First Steps Statewide Profile Report for the period 1/1/13 to 12/31/13. Discussion was held regarding how services are provided when referrals are received and when families initially decline services. The process used for Medicaid eligibility was also discussed in terms of the number of clients only received speech services and how these are reported overall.	Kathy will be attending this meeting as the representative for First Steps.
Shared Offices	It was announced that the goal is to co-locate different services, i.e., BDDS, VR, and DFR in shared office spaces.	This will allow different agencies to work together with shared resources to improve services for the consumer.
Business and Community Outreach Update	Kristina Blankenship, Director of Business and Community Outreach, provided an update to the council. This involves employees outside the FSSA umbrella and involves the internship to hire program. To date, there are 26 fulltime hires into state entities. Kylee continues to work with staff outside of central office to identify gaps in coordination of services. Virginia Bates serves as the statewide coordinator and works closely with Teresa Grosse to identify and address training needs.	There is continued effort to implement consistent agency policies statewide and to ensure we are all on the same page.
Provider Portal	Advocare continues to develop a provider portal. The portal would be open to providers (with read only privileges) to see ALGO scores, demographics, etc. This has been piloted with three (3) existing providers; AWS, Carey Services and MDC Goldenrod Services. Recommended changes have been made based on the pilot project. Once this is up and running Advocare will provide training to the providers and they will be required to sign a business agreement. Discussion was held regarding what documentation would be uploaded into this system in the future and the new CMS regulations. This will be a good lead into the person centered plan process, not only on paper but in practice.	Upon implementation of this project and e-mail will be sent to all providers with enrollment instructions.
Matrix Update	Leslie presented the council with updates on the Matrix project based upon feedback from last month's demonstration to this group. She has met with representatives from Advocare in order to determine if this is something they would be able to provide.	It is the consensus we are not ready to move forward with this project at this time as exact timeframes have not been established. Leslie will provide an update to the council in July.
BDDS Targeting	Per Julie, 1,642 consumers out of the initial backlog of 2,400 have been addressed. BDDS staff continues to work with the remaining consumers in choosing case managers, providers, etc. As of this date there is a plan to target an additional 150 consumers for the waiver on April 15 th .	Julie again praised the BDDS staffs who have worked tirelessly towards this effort.
Next Meeting	The next Advisory Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7 th at 10:00 a.m.	Informational.